

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway

Basic Instrument

The basic instrument establishing U.S.-Norway cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture is the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway*. The MOU became effective October 1, 2008, and expired on September 29, 2013. The two Parties intend to renew the MOU in 2014.

Members

The United States and Norway

Meetings

The Parties agreed that their designated representatives will meet annually, or as needed, alternating between the United States and Norway.

U.S. Representation

Pursuant to Article 2 of the MOU, the Parties established a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee consists of one Representative and advisors from each Party. The Representative for NOAA will be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs or his designee, as appropriate. The Representative for the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs will be the Secretary General, or his designee, as appropriate.

Description

The general purpose of the MOU is to strengthen and encourage cooperation between the United States and Norway on fisheries and other living marine resources, and ecosystem matters. Norway belongs to a number of international organizations to which the United States is also a member, including the International Whaling Commission, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Thus, there are many areas of joint interest and concern regarding living marine resources.

Recent Activities

The 5th U.S.-Norway Joint Committee on Fisheries was hosted by NOAA Fisheries in Silver Spring, Maryland, on September 24-25, 2014. Eileen Sobeck, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and Russell Smith, NOAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for International Fisheries co-led the U.S. delegation, which consisted of representatives of NMFS, the Department of State, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Mr. Arne Røksund, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, led the Norwegian delegation, which included officials from the Ministry and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Mr. Paul Niemeier, NMFS Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, and Mr. Richard Pedersen, Royal Embassy of Norway in the United States, were meeting Co-Facilitators.

Both sides presented updates on national fisheries developments since the last meeting in 2012. Topics discussed on the first day of the meeting were fisheries management issues (electronic monitoring and fishery discards), capacity building efforts in West Africa, and a wide variety trade issues (Russian trade sanctions; U.S. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries Task Force; catch documentation schemes; functioning of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade; seafood traceability; collaboration with the Codex Committee for Fish and Fishery Products; U.S. Food and Drug Administration food safety inspections; EU Regulation on IUU fishing; measures to

reduce bycatches of marine mammals in fisheries; Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations; WTO-Doha round; the U.S. Fisheries Finance Program; food security issues; and the International Trade Data System). A discussion of Polar issues, a review of the status of scientific cooperation, and a U.S. presentation on climate change and fisheries research capped off the second day of a very productive meeting.

Future Meetings: Norway agreed to host the 6th Joint Committee Meeting in 2015--place and exact time to be determined.

Staff Contacts

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